Data sharing, EMS and Seniors

Leveraging health information to help seniors live abundantly.

- 39% of EMS patients in Utah are over 60 years old.
- EMS usage by seventy to seventy-nine year olds has increased 20% since 2018.

In 2020 there were 94,127 EMS calls for individuals over sixty. Of these:

- 2681 were treated and released AMA
- 9349 were treated and released per protocol
- 5267 were evaluated but did not require treatment or transport
- 634 were transported by a non-EMS vehicle.
- 63,084 were treated and transported by EMS

How data sharing can help:
Daily Operations

- Continuity of care from pre-hospital care to emergency departments and other providers (seniors may have several)

- Medical histories including allergies, medications, conditions, and DNR requests would be made available to EMS provider to improve care.

How data sharing can help: Community based care

- EMS data can help identify reoccurring issues like falls, senior abuse, and unmet health needs, such as management of chronic conditions.

- EMS data can be used to identify "hot spots" of call locations and types for seniors to help guide community outreach.

- Some patients use EMS when less expensive resources may be more appropriate. EMS records could help identify these patients.

- EMS providers have unique perspective on the living conditions of patients. This data is not explicitly collected by EMS.

How data sharing can help: Emergency Preparedness

- EMS data could be used to track seniors and help reunite patients with families during a disaster.

- Data from EMS could be valuable in evaluating the deployment of resources.

- Data flowing to EMS from an HIE could improve care given to senior patients who may have chronic conditions during a disaster response.

Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. Health Information Exchange Issue Brief: National Emergency Medical Services Use Cases. Website. Accessed January 4, 2021
https://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/IssueBrief-NationalEMS_Use_Cases.pdf

There is currently a group in our department working on legal barriers to bi-directional data sharing.

If you are interested in EMS data, please contact me at pnicholes@Utah.gov